(*h*) No.

(*i*) The island is now used mainly as temporary headquarters for the conduct of the Ramnad Chank fishery. The annual running charges incurred are small and are covered by the receipts from the coconut trees, etc., and the lease of the right of collecting cowries.

(*j*) No.

(*k*) The University of Madras have, at the instance of the Indian Science Congress, asked that a marine biological station may be maintained by Government on the island for the use of students and biologists, the University making a contribution to Government towards the expenses of the station. The matter is under consideration.

(*l*) Yes.

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" May I know from the hon. the Minister for Development whether improvements made by any subordinate of the department without sanction are not to be considered as unauthorized ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" There was no alteration, but only improvements, and, in the special circumstances of the case, the Government sanctioned them."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" So, shall I take it that the improvements which were carried out were all unauthorized ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—" Yes, that is so."

Industries.

The economic effect of the Empire Exhibition on Indian industry.

*57 *Q.*—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) the economic effect of the Empire Exhibition on the manufactures and industries of India and Madras Presidency in particular ;

(*b*) whether any of the exhibitors have found new demands and new markets for their wares, and if so, to what extent in the year 1924–25 ; and

(*c*) whether foreign countries have come to know what we want as a result of the exhibition and are sending such articles to India and competing with Indian manufacturers to the prejudice of the latter ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) It is not yet possible to gauge the ultimate results of the exhibition. Information as to sales, enquiries and orders at the time of the exhibition is contained in G.O. No. 377, Development, dated 12th March 1925. No information is available as to subsequent business by exhibitors.

(*c*) The aim of the exhibition was to demonstrate what India can supply and not what she requires. The Government have no information which would warrant the assumption that foreign countries as a result of the exhibition are competing with Indian manufacturers to the prejudice of the latter.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" Is the hon. the Minister aware that the Indian Court at Wembley was a mere bazaar of cheap and shoddy shops and with no connexion with Indian art at all ? "

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—"I am not aware of that."

Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar :—"Is he aware, Sir, that there had been no systematic attempt made to exhibit Indian manufactures and arts and that the exhibits consisted of a mere jumble of cheap articles?"

Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliyar :—"May I say, Sir, that it is not so?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. Sivagnanam Pillai :—"It is merely a repetition of the first question."

Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, and Ink Factory, Madras.

* 58 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) the officer who is responsible for the purchase of the large stock of soda-ash lying unused in the Kerala Soap Institute, Calicut, and the action taken by the Government with reference to him, if the purchase so made was without any necessity ;

(b) the total amount of the bad and doubtful debts of the Institute, referred to in the balance sheet for the year ending 31st March 1924, and the responsible officers who advanced money or its equivalents and the private individuals who owe the debts now respectively ;

(c) the circumstances under which 155 gallons of ink were lost in transit (vide paragraph 7 of enclosure to the letter of the Director of Industries, No. 190-E-24, dated 3rd August 1924) and the steps taken to prevent the recurrence of such losses ; and

(d) the concern or concerns of the Government whose audit has been entrusted to Messrs. Fraser & Ross but has been carried out by them only as a test audit as in the case of the Ink Factory, Madras?

A.—(a) The purchase was made in the year 1918 by Sir Frederick Nicholson when, owing to the war restrictions then prevailing, supplies of caustic soda were unprocurable. The war ended sooner than was expected and caustic soda again became available in the market at a price cheaper than that at which it could be manufactured in the Kerala Soap Institute from soda ash. This accounts for the stock now lying unused in the Institute. The Director of Industries is disposing of it as quickly as possible as and when opportunity occurs.

(b) The total amount of bad and doubtful debts on 31st March 1924, as will be seen from the balance sheet itself, was Rs. 598-8-9. Almost the whole of it represents the value of soap advanced by the management of the Institute on credit in the usual course of business. Part of the amount is likely to be recovered. The Government consider it undesirable to publish the names of individual debtors.

(c) The loss was mainly due to the leakage and evaporation which occurred during transit and to a lesser extent to leakage during the loading and unloading of the barrels. It is impossible to avoid some leakage from barrels during transit and, as such transfers take place only very infrequently, the Government do not consider it necessary to prescribe any special precautions beyond the exercise of ordinary care.